

NEWS RELEASE COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

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<u>CITY HEIGHTS FIRES UNDER INVESTIGATION</u>

San Diego, CA – November 20, 2014 – The San Diego Police is rounding up suspects in a wave of arson fires that have struck Mid-City neighborhoods in recent weeks. Investigators believe several arsonists may be responsible for at least sixteen fires set mostly in neighborhoods in and near City Heights. Now, investigators are asking for the public's help.

"We need witnesses to any of these fires or suspicious activity to come forward," said Councilmember Marti Emerald after her office received a briefing from the Metro Arson Strike Team (MAST). "So far, these arsonists have damaged cars and other property. But the next fire could harm or kill innocent people. These criminals must be stopped".

The fires began in September. The most recent was last week, November 12. The public is encouraged to call 911 if they see any suspicious behavior. If the public has any photos or video in the areas where the fires were set showing suspects, they are asked to call MAST at 619-236-6815. The public is also asked to clear debris out of alleys near their homes or businesses so they do not become the next victim in this string of arson fires.

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